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GENERAL

1. UK Government opposed to affiliating Spain with NATO:

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Under Secretary Davies of the UK Foreign Office stated in the House of Commons on 21 February that the Labor Government

remains opposed to including Spain in NATO and cannot accept Conservative arguments in favor of such a move. Davies emphasized that the decision clearly rests with all the members of NATO but that the UK Government believes the admission of Spain would betray democratic forces in that country, possibly even drive them into "the Communist Camp," and would weaken the moral basis of Western democratic unity. He argued that priority for equipment must be given to the present NATO countries and commented that, "until their needs had been fully met," it would not be possible to give worthwhile quantities of equipment to Spain.

Comment: The UK Labor Government will continue to view the question of Spain's association in Western European defense with utmost caution in view of the deep-seated aversion to Franco Spain on the part of many Laborites, general scepticism concerning the effectiveness of a Spanish military contribution, and doubts regarding Spain's willingness to cooperate with the West on acceptable terms.

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WESTERN EUROPE

5. French Atomic Energy Commissariat reorganized:

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The reorganization of the French Atomic Energy Commissariat, which was expected when the terms of all the appointed members expired this January, occurred on 4 January 1951. According to a

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decree published in the Official Journal, the Atomic Energy Committee has been placed directly under the authority of the Premier (who will be its presiding officer), its membership has been increased from six to thirteen, and a Scientific Council of fifteen members has been established to assist the Committee and the High Commissioner.

Comment: This reorganization of the French atomic energy high command was prompted by the government's desire (a) to streamline and politically neutralize the Commissariat in order to have more control over its activities and (b) to rid the Commissariat of all the known Communists occupying important positions. While the reorganization has on the whole accomplished these objectives, there is still some question as to the political reliability of Francis Perrin, the new High Commissioner. Furthermore, it must be assumed that numerous Communists and fellow-travellers employed while Joliot-Curie was High Commissioner will continue in the lower levels of the Commissariat. It is expected that the process of extending this purge of political unreliables to the lower levels will be extremely difficult and time-consuming if, in fact, it can be successfully accomplished at all.